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16 August 1961  
NPIC/IM-7/61

**MEMORANDUM FOR :** Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence  
(CIA/OSI)

**THROUGH :** TALENT Control Officer, CIA/OSI

**ATTENTION :**

**SUBJECT :** Search for Indications of Nuclear Testing in  
Areas of Seismic Events (8 November 1958 -  
31 December 1959) in the USSR and China

**REFERENCES :** (a) Requirement OSI/R-55/61  
(b) NPIC Project JN 99/61

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results of a photographic search of 175 unidentified seismic events in 1958 and 1959 submitted with OSI Requirement R-55/61. The search was for any signs of preparations for, or effects of, any clandestine nuclear testing in the USSR, China, and Mongolia. No indications of nuclear testing were identified.

2. Where photography was available, an area having a radius of approximately 25 nautical miles (nm) from the coordinates of the epicenter of each event was searched. In many cases only part of the area was covered by photography and in some cases the area was partially or completely covered by clouds and/or haze.

3. It should be kept in mind that the characteristics of some of the photography (small scale, poor image quality, obliquity, partial coverage, weather conditions, etc.) considerably hindered the photographic search.

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**SUBJECT: Search for Indications of Nuclear Testing  
in Areas of Seismic Events (8 November  
1958 - 31 December 1959) in the USSR and  
China**

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a. Epicenters with complete photographic coverage	92
b. Epicenters with partial photographic coverage	26
c. Epicenters without photographic coverage	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>

5. Attached is the list of seismic events, in the order of occurrence, giving the location, photographic coverage available, and the results of the photographic interpretation search.

6. This is the second of two memoranda in answer to OSI Requirement R-55/61. This memorandum includes epicenters of seismic events from 8 November 1958 to 31 December 1959 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The first memorandum was completed on 10 May 1961

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FOR THE DIRECTOR, NPIC

[REDACTED]  
Operations Officer

25X1 Enclosure:

Photographic Coverage of Areas of Unidentified Seismic Events.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF AREAS OF UNIDENTIFIED SEISMIC EVENTS

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DATE OF SEISMIC EVENT	LOCATION & COORDINATES	WAC	REMARKS
8 Nov 58	Siberia 61-30N/134E	124	Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
8 Nov 58	Komandorskiye Is. 54-30N/168E	193	No photo coverage.
11 Nov 58	Siberia 60-30N/118-48E	125	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
19 Nov 58	Sinkiang 42-30N/88E	330	No photo coverage.
28 Nov 58	Kamchatka 53-30N/159-48E	194	Complete coverage. Complete Oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified
30 Nov 58	Kamchatka 54-12N/157E	194	No photo coverage.
30 Nov 58	Nan Shan 37-48N/101E	332	Complete coverage Partial coverage Nothing pertinent identified.
1 Dec 58	Kamchatka 53-48N/157-18E	194	No photo coverage
3 Dec 58	Sinkiang 43-36N/84E	330	No photo coverage

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\*SC -- Scattered clouds.  
HC -- Heavy clouds.

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18 Dec 58	Sinkiang 31N/102E	436,495	Complete coverage. Mountainous terrain. Nothing pertinent identified.
21 Dec 58	Sinkiang 44-18N/81E	244	Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent ident.
28 Dec 58	Ningsia Province 40N/107E	287,288, 383	No photo coverage.
30 Dec 58	Kamchatka 56-12N/161-18E	132	Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
4 Jan 59	Siberia 65N/155E	73	Heavy clouds completely obscure area.
12 Jan 59	Siberia 61N/150E	123	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
16 Jan 59	Sinkiang 40N/80E	329,335	No photo coverage.
24 Jan 59	Kamchatka 54N/159E	194	Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
9 Feb 59	Kamchatka 50N/156E	206	No photo coverage.
15 Feb 59	China 44N/84E	243,330	No photo coverage.
15 Feb 59	China 42N/102E	287	No photo coverage.
22 Feb 59	Kamchatka 52N/158E	194,206	Complete oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.

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23 Feb 59	Kamchatka 53N/159E	194
4 Mar 59	China 30N/108E	494,495
4 Mar 59	Lake Baikal 56N/112E	128,199
5 Mar 59	Kamchatka 54N/160E	194
10 Mar 59	Kirgiz, SSR 41N/74E	328
11 Mar 59	China 28N/104E	495,496
11 Mar 59	Siberia 62N/146E	123
13 Mar 59	China 30N/100E	436
16 Mar 59	Kuril Islands 45N/148E	280
18 Mar 59	Okhotsk Sea 51N/155E	206

Partial coverage  
Complete oblique coverage  
Epicenter approx 4 nm offshore & 13 nm  
ESE of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy complex.  
nothing pertinent identified.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage

Partial coverage.  
Partial oblique.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

Area obscured by clouds.  
Complete coverage. Mining area at  
Kok-Yangak (41-00/73-14E) Approx. 26 nm  
W of epicenter. Nothing pertinent  
identified.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

Complete oblique coverage. Nothing  
pertinent identified.

Clouds preclude interpretation.

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18 Mar 59	China 30N/100E	436	25X1	No photo coverage.	25X1
19 Mar 59	Kuril Islands 45N/147E	280,281		Complete oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
25 Mar 59	Tadzhik 39N/71E	336		Partial coverage. (Approx. 75%) Nothing pertinent identified.	
26 Mar 59	Tadzhik 39N/71E	336		Refer <input type="text"/> 25X1	
28 Mar 59	Kuril Islands 48N/153E	206,280		No photo coverage.	
30 Mar 59	China 26N/101E	496,555		Partial oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
1 Apr 59	Kamchatka 56N/163E	194		Complete coverage. Complete oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
1 Apr 59	Caspian Sea 39N/49E	339		Complete coverage. Heavy clouds obscure area. Complete coverage. Complete coverage. Haze obscures much of area. Oil-producing area. Nothing of pertinent identified.	
2 Apr 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194		Complete coverage. Complete oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
3 Apr 59	Kuril Islands 46N/150E	280		No photo coverage.	
11 Apr 59	Kuril Islands 46N/150E	280		No photo coverage.	

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15 Apr 59 Kamchatka 194  
54N/160E18 Apr 59 Caspian Sea 325  
42N/47E22 Apr 59 China 287,383  
40N/104E25 Apr 59 Kamchatka 194  
53N/160E27 Apr 59 China 434  
33N/93E28 Apr 59 China 495  
29N/104E30 Apr 59 China 434,435  
33N/95E1 May 59 Mongolia 286,287  
44N/104E2 May 59 Kamchatka 206  
50N/156E5 May 59 Kamchatka 194  
53N/159E7 May 59 Kamchatka 194  
53N/159E8 May 59 Kamchatka 194  
54N/159EComplete coverage. Area obscured by  
heavy clouds

No photo coverage.

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Oblique coverage.  
Partial oblique coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

No photo coverage.

Partial oblique coverage. Mountainous  
terrain with few signs of human activity.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

Partial coverage.  
Complete oblique coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

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8 May 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194
9 May 59	China 26N/103E	496
11 May 59	Lake Baikal 56N/117E	128,199
11 May 59	Okhotsk Sea 55N/156E	194
23 May 59	China 33N/96E	435
26 May 59	Kamchatka 55N/162E	194
31 May 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194
4 Jun 59	Lake Baikal 52N/109E	200,201
6 Jun 59	Kamchatka 55N/162E	194
13 Jun 59	China 38N/105E	383
18 Jun 59	Kamchatka 57N/156E	132
18 Jun 59	Kamchatka 54N/160E	194

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Partial coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

Complete coverage. Haze and clouds  
preclude interpretation.

Complete coverage (oblique). Nothing  
pertinent identified.

Complete coverage.  
Complete oblique coverage.  
Complete oblique coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

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Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

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No photo coverage

Partial coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

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18 Jun 59	Kamchatka 55N/160E	194	Partial coverage. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
18 Jun 59	Kamchatka 54N/159E	194	Refer [ ] 25X1
20 Jun 59	Kamchatka 54N/160E	194	Refer [ ] 25X1
21 Jun 59	Lake Baikal 56N/114E	128,199	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
23 Jun 59	Kamchatka 54N/160E	194	Refer [ ] 25X1
23 Jun 59	China 42N/83E	329,330	No photo coverage.
24 Jun 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194	Refer [ ] 25X1
24 Jun 59	China 41N/82E	329	Complete coverage. Probable agricultural experimentation area. Nothing pertinent identified.
27 Jun 59	China 42N/80E	329	Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Area in glacial region. Nothing pertinent identified.
1 Jul 59	China 32N/95E	434,435	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
1 Jul 59	China 31N/95E	437	Complete coverage. Complete coverage. Mountainous terrain. Only minor roads & trails & small villages in area. Nothing pertinent identified.

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7 Jul 59	China 41N/83E	329,330	No photo coverage.
8 Jul 59	Kuril Islands 45N/147E	281	Refer 25X1
10 Jul 59	China 33N/93E	434	Refer 25X1
12 Jul 59	USSR 41N/73E	328	Complete coverage. Details obscured. Complete coverage. Mining area at Kok-Yangak (41-00N/73-14E), 10 miles E of epicenter. Nothing pertinent identified.
19 Jul 59	Kuril Islands 50N/155E	206	Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
24 Jul 59	USSR 39N/73E	336	Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
25 Jul 59	Kuril Islands 51N/156E	206	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
25 Jul 59	Sakhalin Island 50N/143E	205	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
25 Jul 59	Siberia 60N/144E	123,131	Heavy clouds obscure area.
26 Jul 59	China 28N/102E	436,496	Complete coverage. Heavy clouds obscure most of area. Nothing pertinent identified.
26 Jul 59	Kamchatka 56N/163E	194	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
31 Jul 59	Mongolia 44N/101E	286,287	No photo coverage.

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6 Aug 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194	Refer		25X1
8 Aug 59	Kamchatka 53N/159E	194	Refer		25X1
8 Aug 59	China 39N/76E	335	Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.		
10 Aug 59	China 40N/78E	329,335			
10 Aug 59	Kamchatka 54N/160E	194			
12 Aug 59	China 27N/103E	496			
12 Aug 59	Kamchatka 52N/158E	206			
13 Aug 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194			
15 Aug 59	Kuril Islands 50N/156E	206			
20 Aug 59	Tadzhik 39N/72E	336	Partial (approx 60%) coverage. Partial (approx 20%) coverage. Heavy clouds obscure area. Nothing pertinent identified.		
21 Aug 59	China 39N/104E	383			
24 Aug 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194	Refer		25X1

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24 Aug 59 China 495  
31N/105E

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

28 Aug 59 China 382  
39N/113E

Partial coverage.

29 Aug 59 China 335  
39N/75E

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

29 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 200  
53N/107E

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

29 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 200,201  
52N/107E

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

30 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 201  
52N/107E

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30 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 200  
53N/107E

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31 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 200  
53N/107E

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31 Aug 59 Lake Baikal 200,201  
52N/107E

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1 Sep 59 China 334,433  
36N/85E

No photo coverage.

4 Sep 59 Kamchatka 194  
55N/160E

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8 Sep 59 Lake Baikal 200  
53N/108E

Complete coverage.  
Nothing pertinent identified.

10 Sep 59 Kamchatka 194  
53N/157E

No photo coverage.

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10 Sep 59	Kuril Islands 47N/151E	280	No photo coverage.
12 Sep 59	Kamchatka 53N/160E	194	Refer 25X1
16 Sep 59	Kuril Islands 50N/155E	206	Refer 25X1
20 Sep 59	China 37N/77E	335	No photo coverage.
21 Sep 59	Kirgiz 41N/75E	328,329	Partial coverage. HC obscure most of area. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
24 Sep 59	Kazakh 50N/70E	237,238	Complete coverage. Clouds obscure area. Nothing pertinent identified.
24 Sep 59	Lake Baikal 52N/108E	200,201	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
25 Sep 59	Kamchatka 57N/159E	132	No photo coverage.
25 Sep 59	Caucasus Mts. 44N/39E	249,324	Complete coverage. Complete oblique coverage. Complete oblique coverage. Densely populated area. Epicenter approx 6 nm from land in Black Sea. Nothing pertinent identified.
27 Sep 59	China 33N/110E	385	No photo coverage.
29 Sep 59	W of L. Baikal 53N/100E	160	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.

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29 Sep 59	China 31N/99E	436	No photo coverage.
1 Oct 59	Kamchatka 54N/156E	194	Complete coverage. HC obscure area.
7 Oct 59	W of L. Baikal 53N/100E	160	Refer 25X1
8 Oct 59	China 40N/78E	329,335	No photo coverage.
8 Oct 59	Lake Baikal 53N/107E	200	Refer 25X1
11 Oct 59	Kuril Islands 45N/148E	280	Refer 25X1
13 Oct 59	China 47N/116E	284	Area obscured by clouds.
16 Oct 59	Lake Baikal 54N/107E	200	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
23 Oct 59	Kazakh 43N/62E	327	Complete coverage. Desert area. Nothing pertinent identified.
24 Oct 59	Black Sea 43N/40E	324	Complete oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
24 Oct 59	Kirgiz 41N/70E	328	Complete coverage. Area of probable mining exploration (41-19N/70-07E) approx. 6 nm NNW of Augren. No pertinent activity identified.
25 Oct 59	Kirgiz 41N/70E	328	Refer 25X1

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25 Oct 59	S of L. Baikal 45N/82E	244
27 Oct 59	Kamchatka 55N/155E	195
28 Oct 59	Kamchatka 50N/156E	206
29 Oct 59	Kamchatka 53N/159E	194
30 Oct 59	Siberia 65N/138E	72
10 Nov 59	China 36N/89E	434
11 Nov 59	Mongolia 47N/100E	286
13 Nov 59	China 43N/99E	287
14 Nov 59	Caspian Sea 40N/49E	325,339
17 Nov 59	China 40N/79E	329,335
21 Nov 59	China 31N/114E	493,494
24 Nov 59	USSR 71N/127E	68

Partial coverage. Scattered farming activity. Nothing pertinent identified.

Complete coverage. Haze and clouds preclude interpretation.

No photo coverage.

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No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

No photo coverage.

Complete coverage. Partial coverage. Epicenter falls in oil-producing area. Much track activity and a few oil rigs observed in the area. Nothing pertinent identified.

No photo coverage.

Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.

No photo coverage.

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25 Nov 59	Kara Sea 73N/74E	45	No photo coverage.
28 Nov 59	China 38N/104E	383	Partial oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
28 Nov 59	Kamchatka 56N/163E	194	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
29 Nov 59	Kirgiz, SSR 42N/77E	329	Partial coverage. Partial coverage. Partial coverage. Uranium mining area & uranium processing plant. Nothing pertinent identified.
30 Nov 59	China 44N/81E	329	Complete coverage. Poor image quality. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
5 Dec 59	Mongolia 45N/100E	286,287	No photo coverage.
8 Dec 59	Caucasus Mts. 42N/44E	325	No photo coverage.
9 Dec 59	Caucasus Mts. 41N/44E	325	Partial coverage. Area obscured by weather. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
12 Dec 59	Mongolia 49N/100E	241	Complete coverage. Area showed considerable activity. Village at 49-27N/101-29E had multistory buildings uncommon to area. Many road-served possible mine entrances observed. Nothing pertinent identified.

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Date	Location	Coordinates	Page	Coverage
14 Dec 59	China	40N/79E	329,335	No photo coverage.
15 Dec 59	Kuril Islands	47N/151E	280	No photo coverage.
15 Dec 59	China	40N/78E	329,335	No photo coverage.
16 Dec 59	China	44N/86E	243,330	No photo coverage.
16 Dec 59	China	34N/118E	386	Partial coverage. Many canals under construction. Nothing pertinent identified.
19 Dec 59	Kazakh	43N/67E	327,328	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
19 Dec 59	Kuril Islands	45N/147E	281	Refer [redacted] 25X1
22 Dec 59	Siberia	66N/140E	72	No photo coverage.
24 Dec 59	Mongolia	45N/101E	286	No photo coverage.
25 Dec 59	Kamchatka	51N/157E	206	Cloud cover precludes interpretation.
26 Dec 59	USSR	55N/95E	160	No photo coverage.
26 Dec 59	China	42N/87E	330	No photo coverage.

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27 Dec 59	Kamchatka 56N/162E	194		Complete coverage. Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
27 Dec 59	Manchuria 49N/130E	203		Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Mining activity in area. Active mining and explosives storage at 49-19N/130-10E. Nothing pertinent identified.	
28 Dec 59	Kamchatka 57N/160E	132		Partial coverage. Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
28 Dec 59	Kamchatka 56N/161E	194		Partial coverage.  Partial coverage. Complete coverage. Military area observed. Nothing pertinent identified.	
29 Dec 59	Kamchatka 56N/161E	132,194	Refer		25X1

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